

Mr. Charles McC. Mathias
6808 Leland St.,
Bethesda, Md.

8/17/91

Dear Mac,

When I read in this morning's Post that you had initially "waffled" on the Katzenbach appointment my immediate reaction is that I should write you. Then as I thought about this I wondered whether it might be taken as what I do not intend, as an accusation. There is no comparison between the situation he faced in 1963 ²⁴ and today's. I've thought much for many years about what people in positions of trust then did and why, as best I could figure that out, they did it. I decided that because the enclosed documents, his reaction to perceived expediency, do reflect that I should send them to you in the event that at a point I hope does not come you will have some knowledge of how he ^{had} reacted.

There also were occasions when he testified, not with regard to the enclosures, with less than full forthrightness and truthfulness.

I believe he wrote the handwritten draft on Sunday, November 24, 1963, about as soon as he learned that Oswald had been killed and that there ⁹ would be no trial, when no typist or secretary was available.

The typing was quite early the next morning because his recommendation of a Presidential commission was leaked to the Washington Post and knowledge of that leak reached the FBI so quickly a Cartha De Loach memo reporting the foregoing to Hoover is dated as I recall 10:20 a.m.

Katzenbach then was also acting attorney general.

If you are ever up this way with a few moments to spare and if it interests you I'd like to show you the extent and nature of the archive I leave that will be at Hood. It is of about 60 file cabinets plus many boxes in addition to a small percentage already there. Most is of about a third of a million pages of once-withheld government records I got via about a dozen FOIA suits. Several involved ^{by} precedents. The investigatory files exemption was amended in 1974 over one of my earliest such suits.

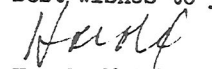
There is much significant information not generally known included and, as I am sure Professor Jerry McKnight, of Hood's history department if you do not know him, will tell you, much thesis material.

Everything I got under FOIA is and has been freely available here and will forever be when all is at Hood.

Lil and I hope that you, Ann and the boys are well and happy.

In the recent past we were the Payne family. Now we are the Cane family. But for a couple pushing 80 and with all we've been through, we are OK.

Best wishes to you all,


Harold Weisberg